



PATENT APPLICATION

IPW

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

NAKAMURA, et al.

Application No.: 10/726,639

Filed: December 4, 2003

For: ROTARY ENCODER

Group Art Unit: 2859

Examiner: Unknown

Atty. Dkt. No.: 101136-00104

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

July 20, 2004


Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the information item(s) listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each item(s) is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the item(s) be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

- ☒ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months of the U.S. filing date or the date of filing a CPA, OR (b) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the present application, or (c) accompanies a Request for Continued Examination. No certification or fee is required.
- ☐ 2. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.
- ☐ a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).
- ☐ b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2).

- ☐ c. A check in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the fee under 37 CFR §1.17(p). Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information.
- ☐ 3. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) that the Information Disclosure Statement be considered. Attached is our check in the amount of \$130.00 in payment of the petition fee under 37 CFR §1.17(i)(1). Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information.
- ☐ a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).
- ☐ b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2).
- ☒ 4. The reference(s) was/were cited in a counterpart foreign application. An English language version of the foreign search report is attached for the Examiner's information.

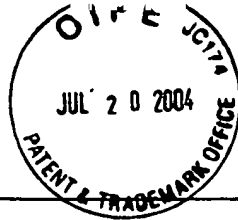
Respectfully submitted,

  
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CMM:mso

Enclosures: PTO-1449 Form; Search Report; References (5)



Sheet 1 of 1

FORM PTO-1449  U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  <b>LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT</b>  <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>	ATTY. DOCKET NO. <b>101136-00104</b>	SERIAL NO. <b>10/726,639</b>
	APPLICANT <b>NAKAMURA, et al.</b>	
	FILING DATE <b>December 4, 2003</b>	GROUP <b>2859</b>

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA						
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO PART.		
	AG	2002-286508	10/3/2002	Japan					XX
	AH	11-173846	7/2/1999	Japan					XX
	AI	2001-264119	9/26/2001	Japan					XX
	AJ	WO 89/12213	12/14/1989	WIPO					XX
	AK	2002-202157	7/19/2002	Japan					XX
	AL								

**OTHER REFERENCES** *(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)*

	AM	
	AN	
	AO	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
<b>*EXAMINER:</b> Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Application No: GB 0328166.4  
Claims searched: ALL

Examiner: Sam Mirison  
Date of search: 19 April 2004

## Patents Act 1977 : Search Report under Section 17

### Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Relevant to claims	Identity of document and passage or figure of particular relevance
A		JP2002286508 A (TAMAGAWA SEIKI CO LTD), see abstract, and figures, Accession No. : 2003-051267 [05]
A		JP110173846 A (TOPCON CORP), see abstract, and figures, Accession No. : 1999-433119 [37]
A		JP2001264119 A (YASKAWA ELECTRIC CORP), see abstract, and figures, Accession No. : 2001-652500 [75]
A		WO1989/012213 A (FANUC LTD), see abstract.
A		JP2002202157 A (ISHIKAWAJIMA HARIMA HEAVY IND), see abstract, and figures, Accession No. : 2002-603737 [65]

### Categories:

X Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
& Member of the same patent family	E Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

### Field of Search:

Search of GB, EP, WO & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKC<sup>w</sup>:

G1A

Worldwide search of patent documents classified in the following areas of the IPC<sup>7</sup>:

G01D

The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report:

ONLINE: WPI, EPODOC, JAPIO